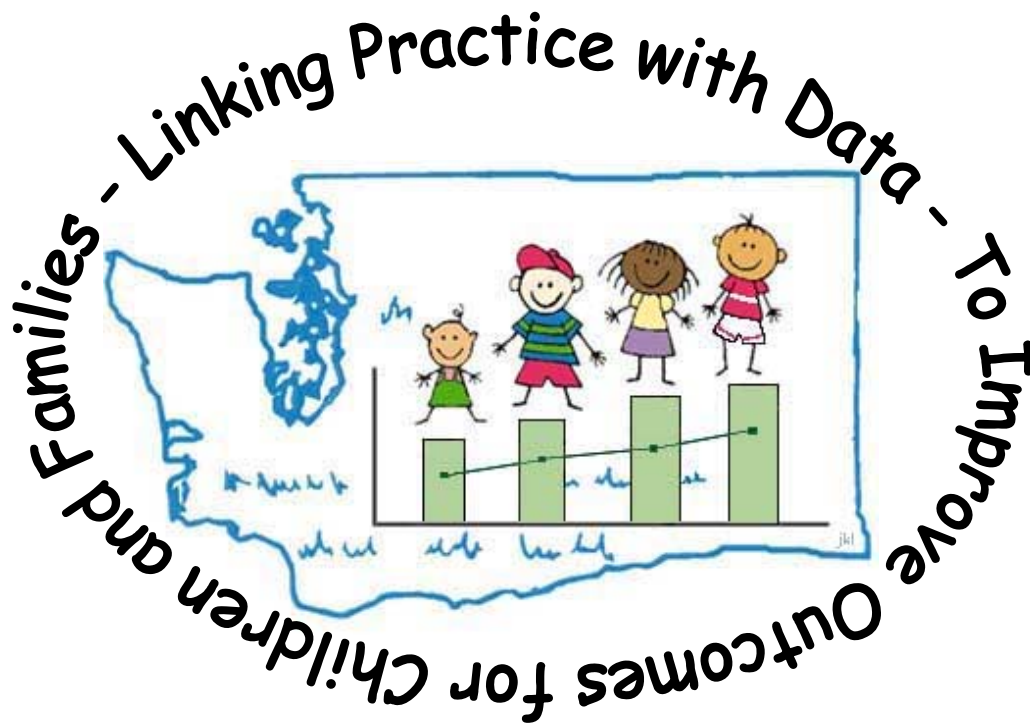


# Children's Administration Supporting Measures Monthly Trend Report



August 2002



Department of Social and Health Services

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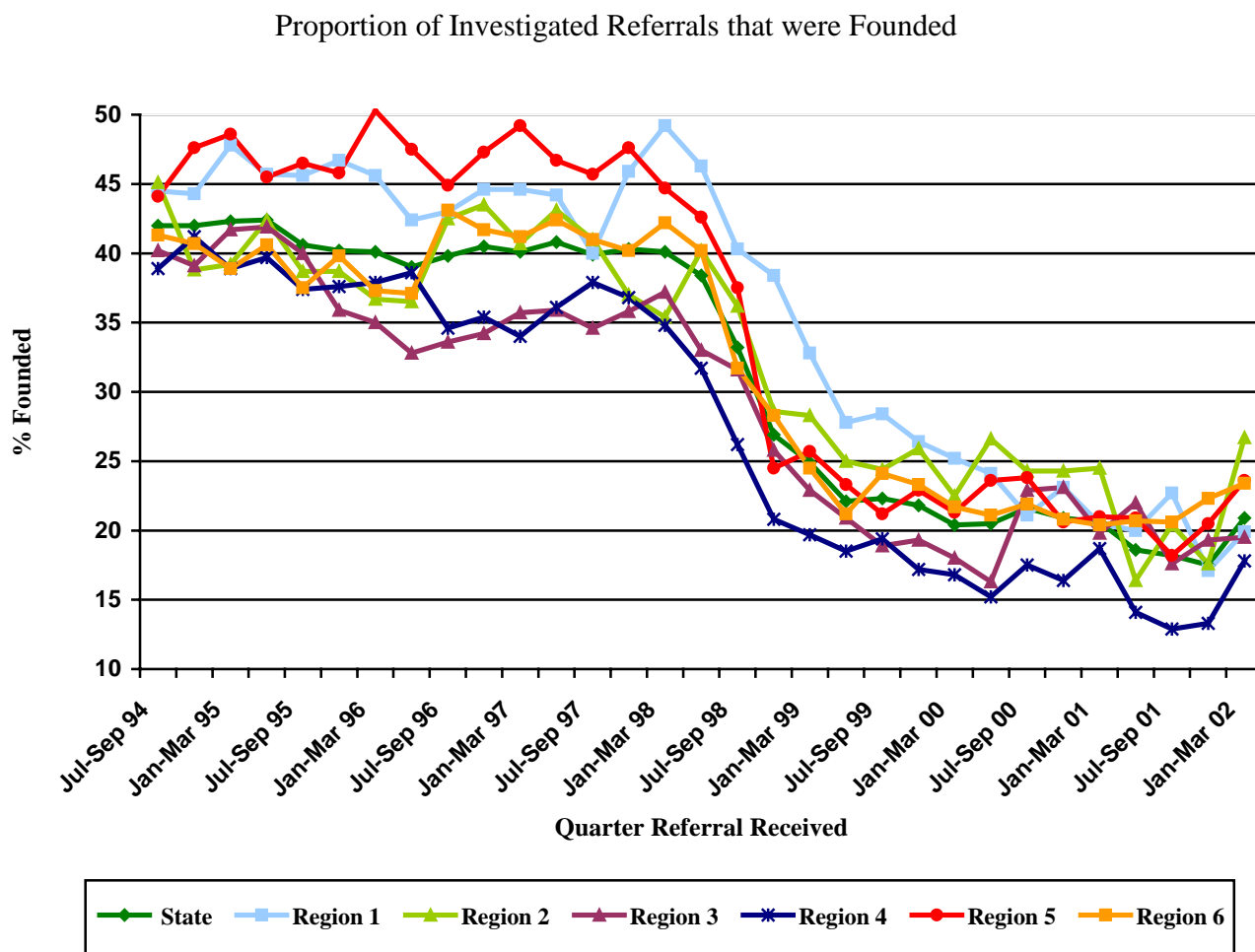
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# SAFETY

## Trends in Founded Rate

For reference, the state and regional founded rates (based on family case ID) are shown here. The victim recurrence rates will decline if the founded rate declines, independent of any changes in practice that may affect the recurrence rates.

**Trend Analysis:** The proportion of all investigated CPS referrals that are founded has declined steeply in Washington State since implementation of the notification letter requirement, from around 40% in 1994 – 1998 to just above 20% in 2000 to early 2001, and has more recently showed an additional decline to below 19%. Similar declines in the founded rate have also been experienced in other states where notification letter requirements have been introduced. In these states, an initial decline has been followed after about two years by a gradual increase in the founded rate. The founded rate returns to levels close to those seen prior to implementation of notification letters. So far, we have not seen this increase in Washington State; However, recent indicators show marked increase by the state and nearly all regions.

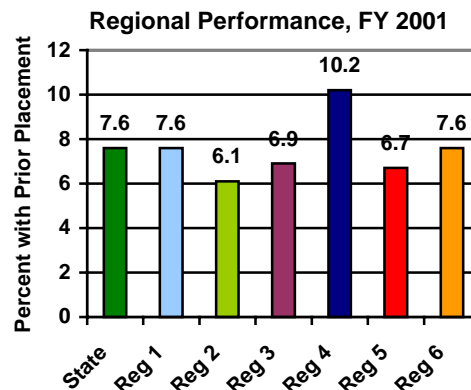


# Safety: Reduce CPS Placement Re-Entry

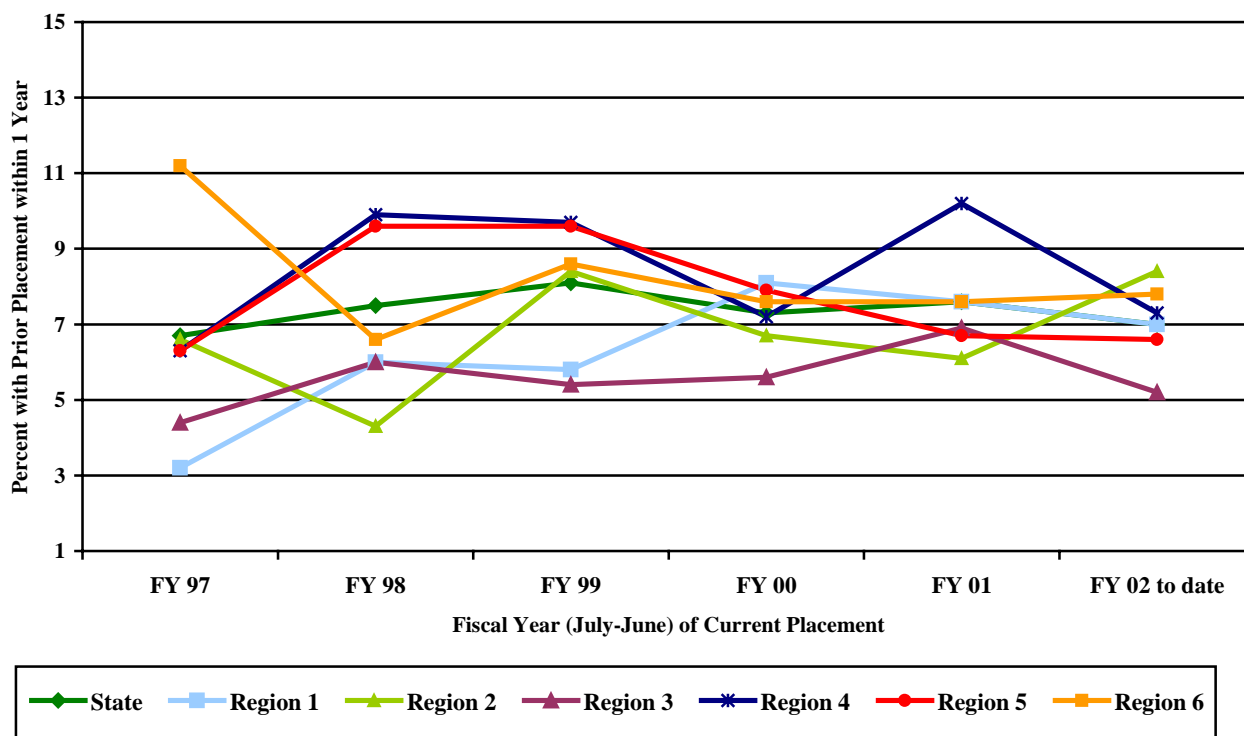
## Prior Placements

Percent of children currently in a CA/N-related placement who had a previous CA/N-related placement in the prior 12 months

**Trend Analysis:** Prior placement rates have shown some fluctuation over the most recent reporting periods with regions 3 and 4 demonstrating declines in the percent of children replaced in care and all other regions showing some increases.



## State and Regional Trends



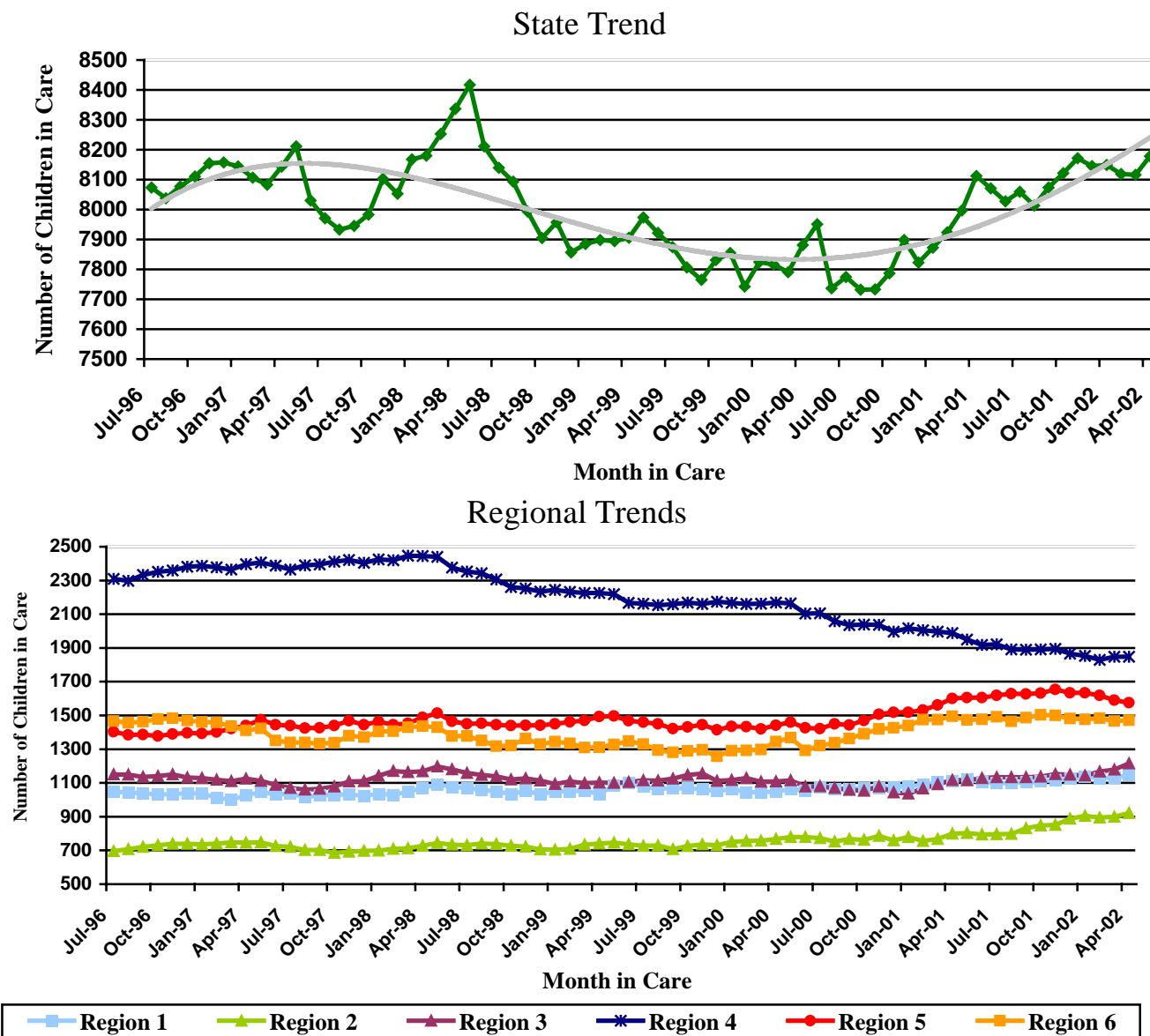
**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** Due to the lack of a direct link in CAMIS between referral and placement data, this measure is NOT defined with reference to CPS referrals. Until a more reliable link between CPS placement and referral information is developed, we report here as a temporary substitute a “look back” placement measure that determines the percent of children placed for reasons of CA/N (placement reasons of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, abandonment, and inadequate housing other than homelessness). For those placed for reasons of CA/N in a given quarter for more than three days, we report the percentage who had a previous placement episode also with CA/N-related reasons lasting > 3 days. The previous episode must have closed at least two days before and within 12 months of the start of the current episode to be counted. (All episode outcomes are counted.) This measure using reason codes replaced the previous measure that counted placements with CPS program codes; trends and office-level data were re-calculated using the reason codes back to the third quarter of 1996 (FY 1997).

## PERMANENCY: TRENDS IN PLACEMENT

### Children in Out of Home Care

Number of children in DCFS custody in open placement episodes in a given month with lengths of stay/time in care of > 60 days (in-home dependencies excluded).

**Trend Analysis:** All regions have demonstrated a decrease or leveling off of the number of kids in care with the Recently the number of children in care has begun to increase. Regions 5 and 6 continue to demonstrate leveling off or slight decreases. Region 4 has shown a very slight increase following several months of decrease.



*Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:* For children in DCFS custody only and in care for > 60 days; in-home dependencies excluded. This measure was recalculated following a large-scale data clean up effort in the field. The previously reported statewide increase in number of children in placement was apparently due to a substantial number of incorrectly documented episodes, and in lesser part to the cumulative effects of improperly documented in-home dependencies: episodes of out of home care with the final event being recorded as an in-home dependency, then the episode left open.

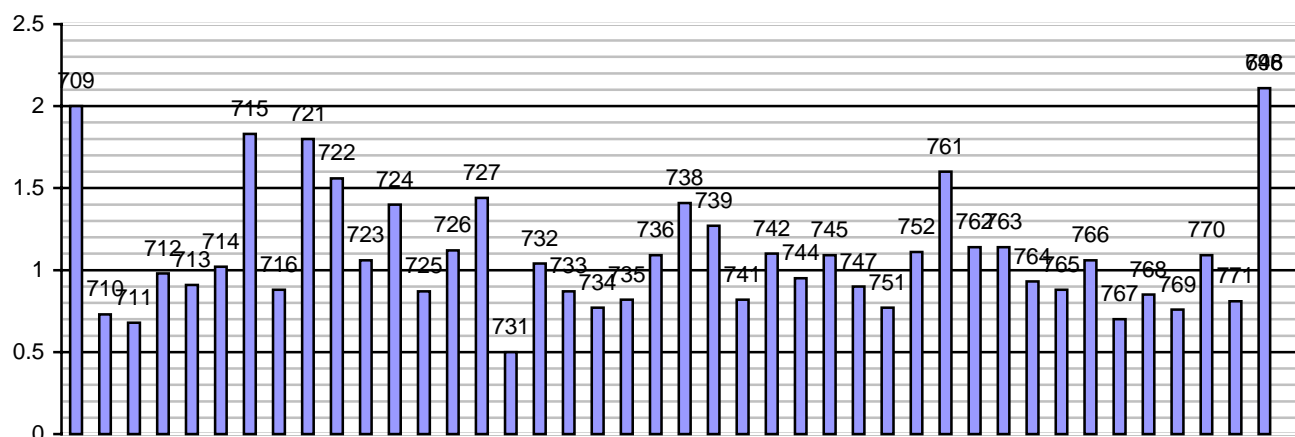
# Permanency: Trends in Placement

## Office Entry/Exit Ratio

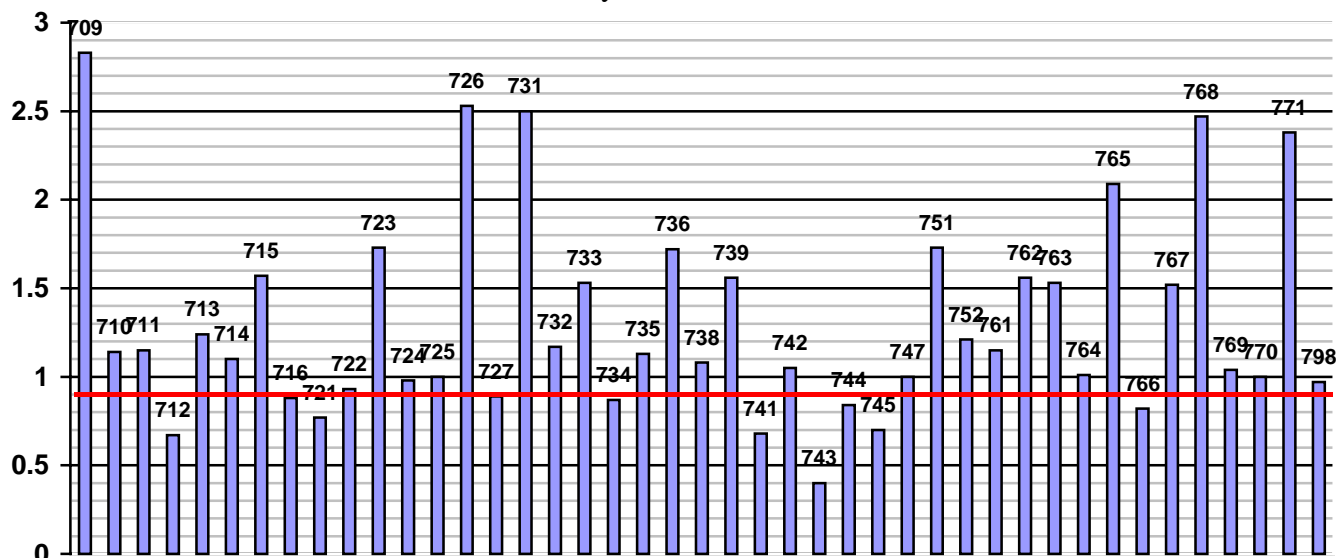
Ratio of placement episode entries to exits for each office, for a given fiscal year, for children with lengths of stay/times in care of > 60 days.

**Trend Analysis:** If the number of children entering placement exceeds the number exiting placement during the same period, the entry/exit ratio will be larger than one and the number of children in open placement episodes will continue to increase. Thus, offices with entry/exit ratios larger than one for a given fiscal year consistently have more children in longer-term care (> 60 days) entering placement than leaving placement.

Office Entry/Exit Ratio, FY 2000



Office Entry/Exit Ratio, FY 2001

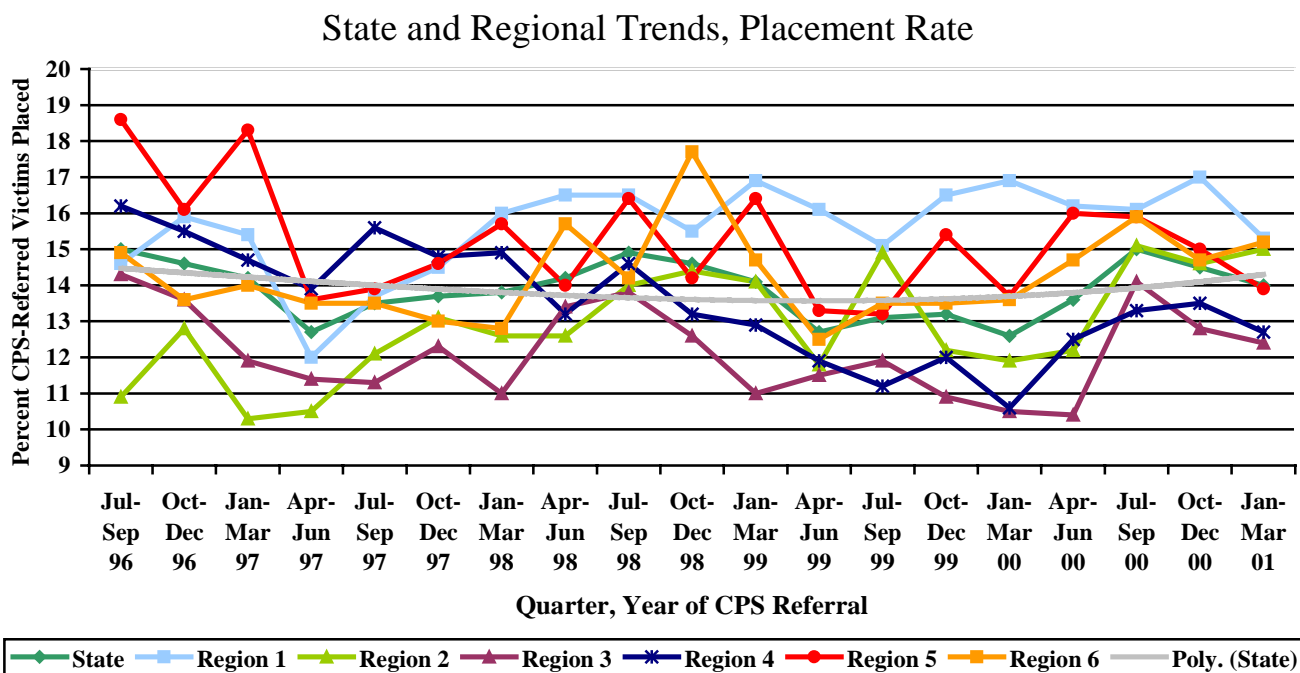
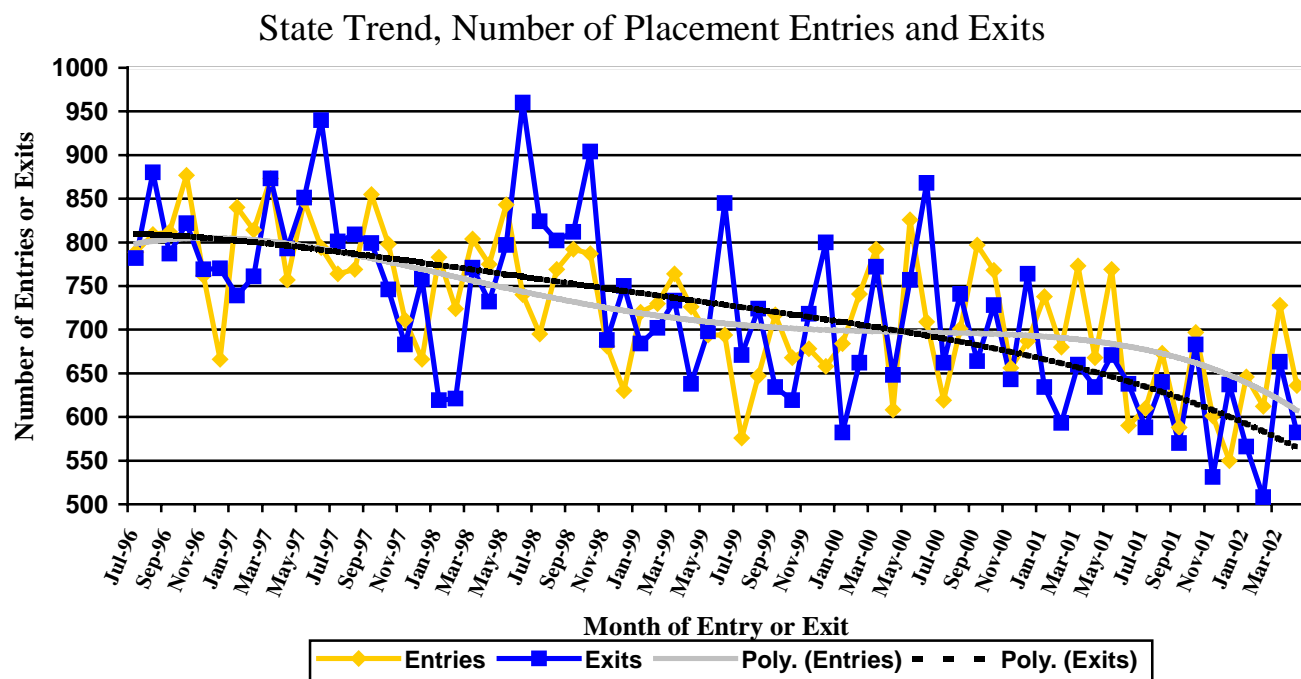


Office 737 (Friday Harbor): records indicate 3 entries and no exits in FY 2000

# Permanency: Trends in Placement

## Number of Placement Entries, Exits, and Placement Rate

Number of children in DCFS custody entering and exiting placement episodes in a given month, for all lengths of stay; and the proportion of investigated child victims in CPS referrals placed from three days before to 12 months after referral.



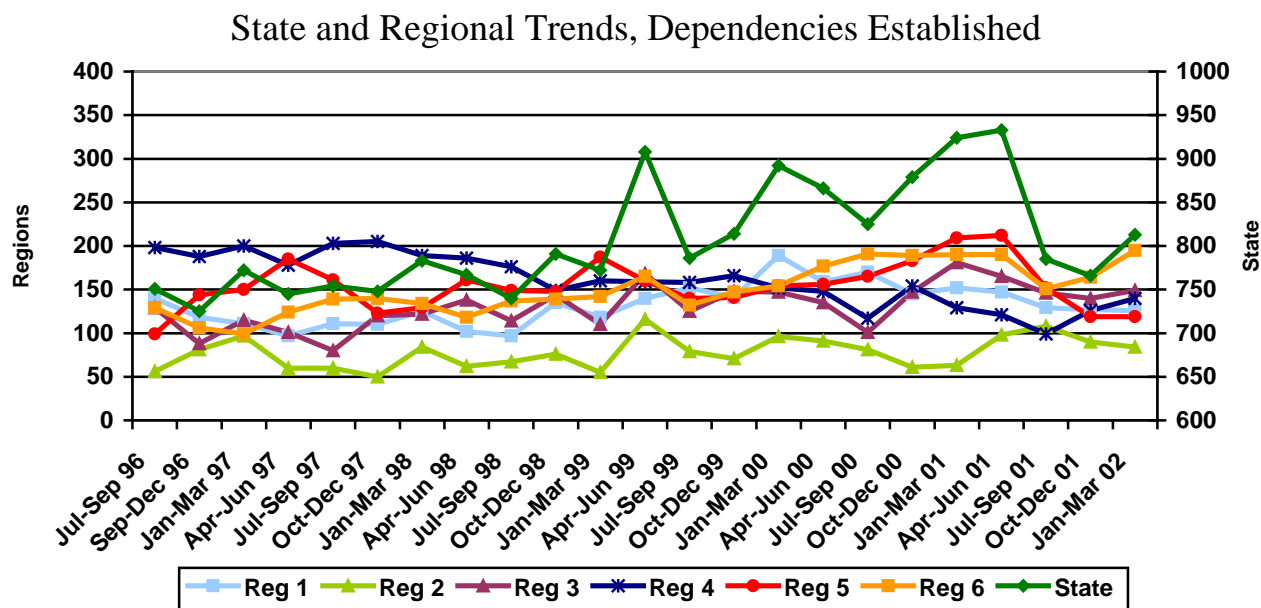
**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** This measure is determined using our new method of correcting placement episode records for incorrectly documented in-home dependencies. The trends were calculated in October, 2001.

# Permanency: Trends in Placement

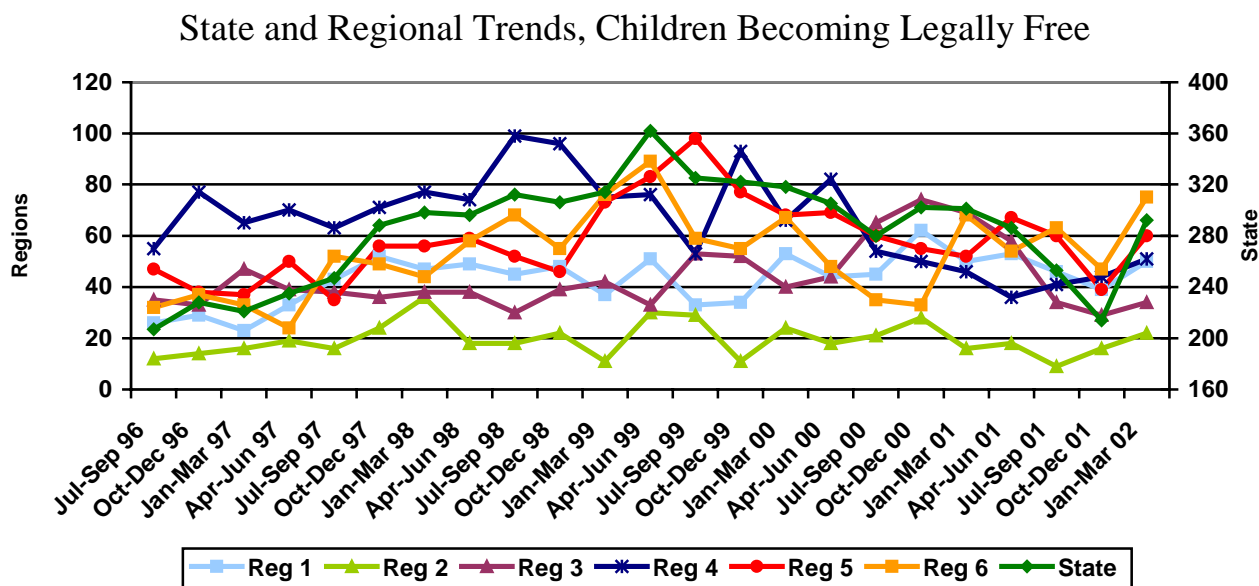
Trend Analysis: Following sharp decreases for the state and most regions, the number of out-of-home dependencies has again begun to increase.

The number of children becoming legally free has fluctuated between 280 and 320 per quarter since 1997, except for marked decrease during the previous two quarters of 253 and 214.

## Number of Out of Home Dependencies Established



## Number of Children Becoming Legally Free



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** These measures are counts of dependencies established (unduplicated counts of children in out of home care only) and children becoming legally free during the specified quarters. The count of dependencies includes a small proportion of children where disposition orders of out of home care are found in CAMIS legal actions but no dependency orders. The count of children becoming legally free includes children reaching that status while in guardianships as well as those in out of home care. The trends were first calculated in December, 2001.



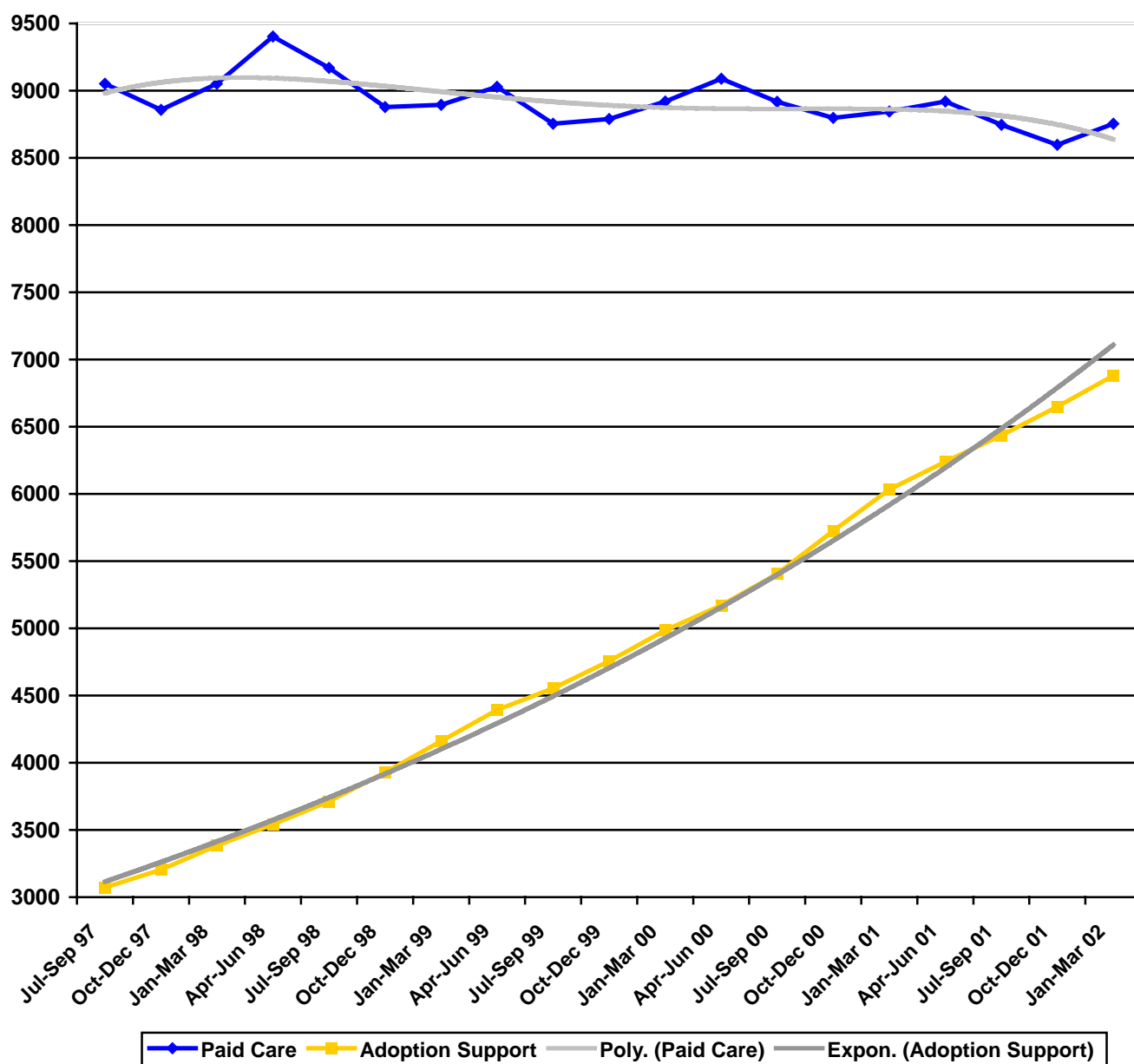
## Permanency: Trends in Placement

### Number of Children in Paid Care and Adoption Support

Number of children in paid care, for all custodies, types, lengths and costs of care, including guardianships and tribal custody; and number of children with adoption support.

**Trend Analysis:** While the number of children in *paid* foster care has remained steady or shown a slight decline when measured across the entire state, the number of children with adoption support has been increasing exponentially; the most recent quarters show a drop in the rate of increase.

State Trends, Number of Children in Paid Care & Adoption Support



*Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:* Reported from SSPS payment records, as the (unduplicated) number of children receiving payments for care of any type or amount in a given quarter.

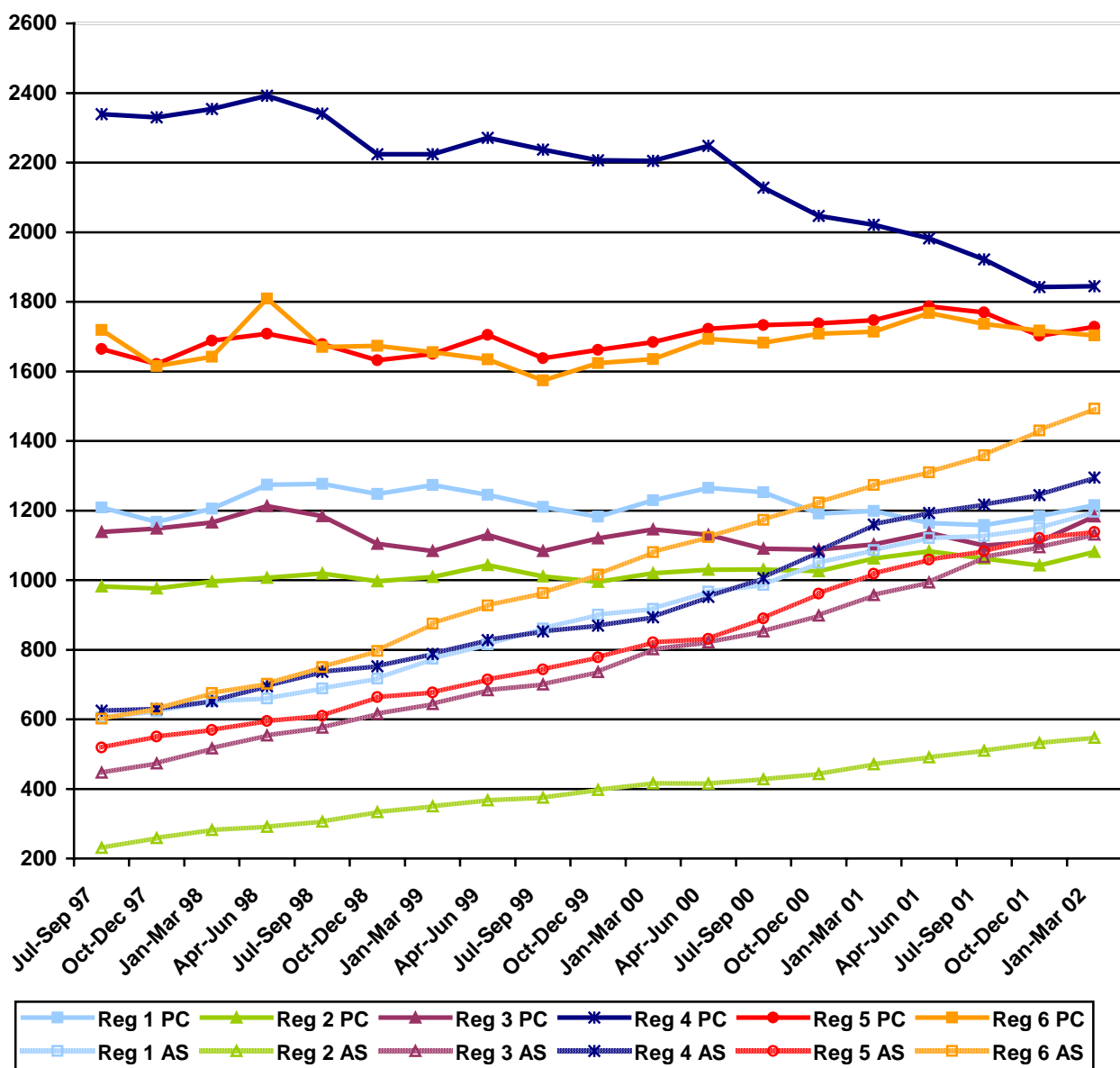
# Permanency: Trends in Placement

## Number of Children in Paid Care and Adoption Support

Number of children in paid care, for all custody types, lengths and costs of care, including guardianships and tribal custody; and number of children with adoption support.

**Trend Analysis:** While the overall State trend in the number of children in paid care has remained nearly constant over the past four years (see previous page), regions 5 and 6 have shown a definite increase over the last year (with recent declines) and region 4 has shown a marked decrease. All regions show a marked increase in the number of children with adoption support, with region 6 showing the largest proportional increase and the highest number of children.

## REGIONAL TRENDS, NUMBER OF CHILDREN



*Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:* Reported from SSPS payment records, as the (unduplicated) number of children receiving payments for care of any type or amount in a given quarter.

## PERMANENCY: INCREASE PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Adoptions: Percents of all children in care, and of all legally free children with plan of adoption

**Trend Analysis:** While the number of adoptions has increased in recent years, the proportion of children adopted as a percentage of all children in longer-term care has declined from 14% in FY 1999 to 10% in FY 2001, reflecting the increase in the number of children remaining in care.

Proportions Adopted in FY 2001

Region	Percent Adopted of all children in care > 60 days	Percent Adopted of all legally free children with plan of adoption
1	11%	34%
2	7%	36%
3	10%	30%
4	12%	33%
5	11%	30%
6	8%	34%
State	10.3%	32.3%

Proportions Adopted in FY 2000

Region	Percent Adopted of all children in care > 60 days	Percent Adopted of all legally free children with plan of adoption
1	13%	36%
2	6%	28%
3	14%	32%
4	9%	24%
5	13%	29%
6	14%	42%
State	11.7%	31.1%

Proportions Adopted in FY 1999

Region	Percent Adopted of all children in care > 60 days	Percent Adopted of all legally free children with plan of adoption
1	18%	48%
2	10%	35%
3	16%	35%
4	9%	24%
5	14%	31%
6	19%	49%
State	14.0%	35.2%

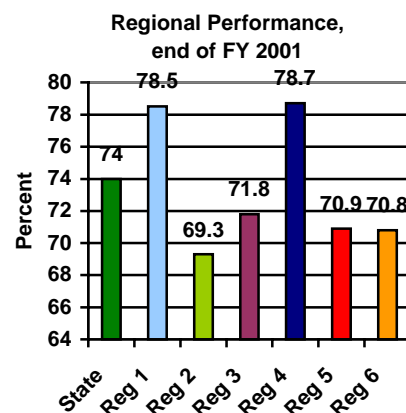
**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** These and all other adoption measures are determined from counts of episode closures with the placement result of adoption.

# Permanency: Alternative Stability Measures

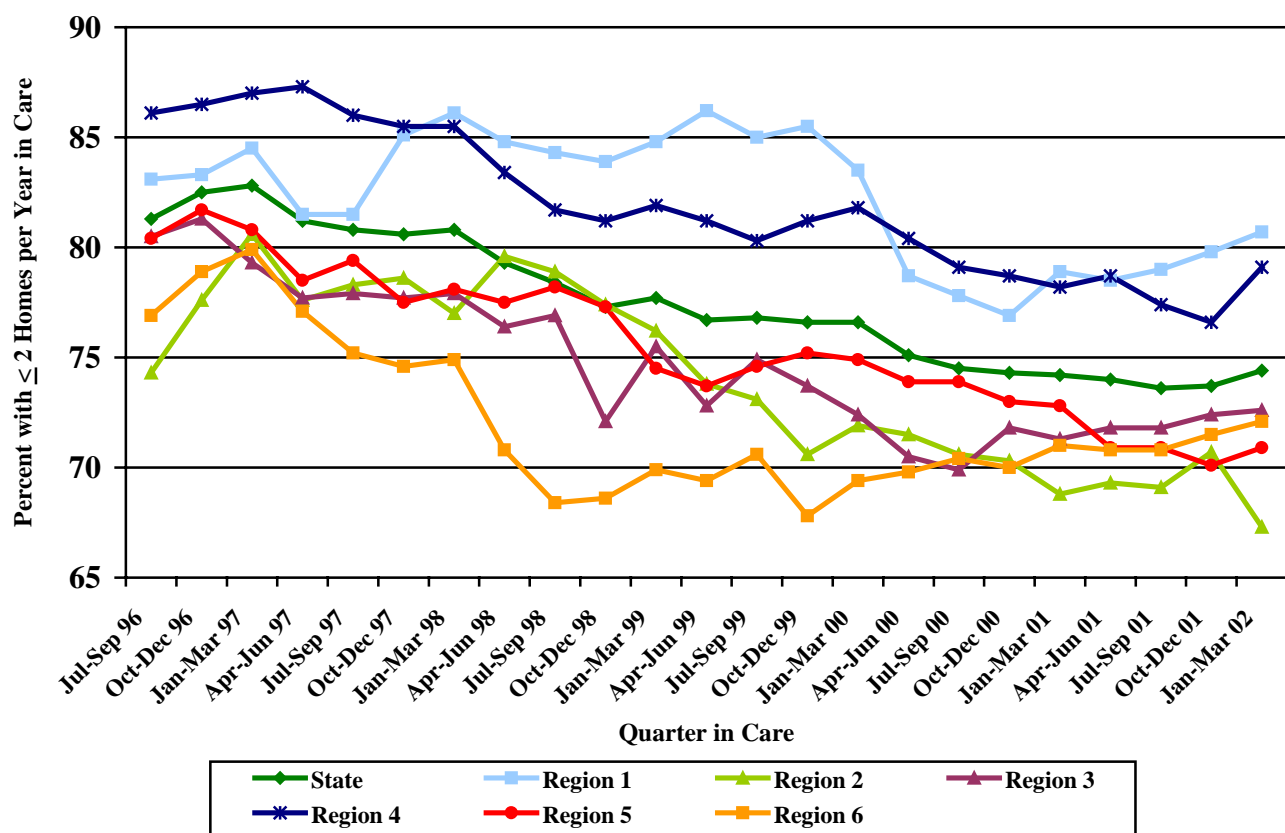
## Percent with no more than 2 placement homes per year in care

For children currently in care for at least one year.

**Trend Analysis:** The State and all regions have shown a general decline in this measure since late 1996; compared to stability in the first year, (see Federal stability measure) the trend in performance on stability over longer periods in care has not been as favorable. Regions 1, 3 and 6 are showing a recent, more favorable reversal of this trend; regions 1 and 4 have historically shown the best performance on this measure of longer-term stability. Region 2 has continued to decline over the past several years.



State and Regional Trends



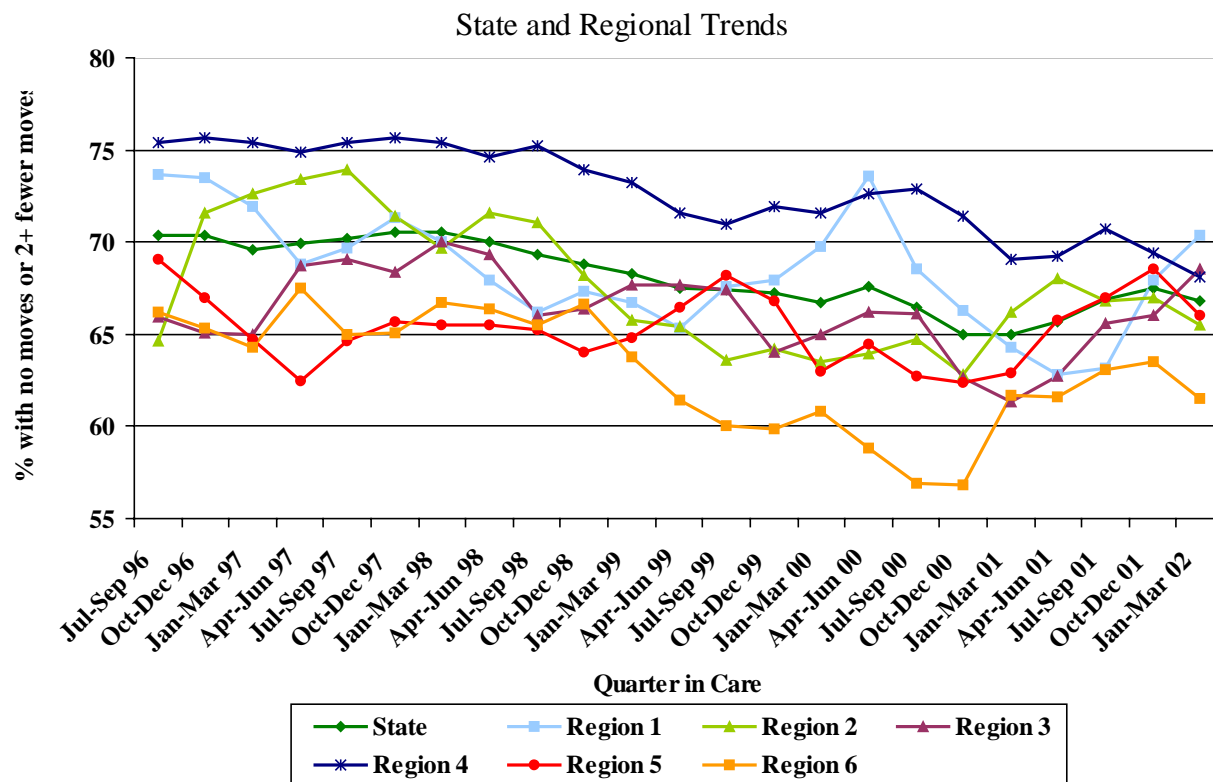
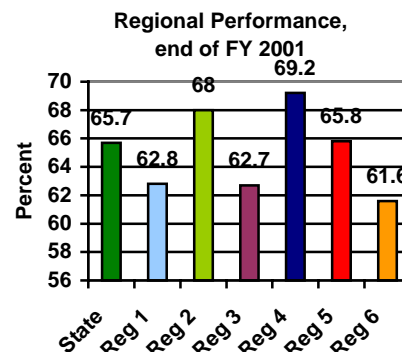
**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** The Federal stability measure only considers the number of placement events during the (up to) first 12 months in care. In order to provide a more complete picture of stability, we also report this measure for children currently in care for more than one year (DCFS custody only): the proportion with two or fewer different principle places of residence (unduplication by unique business ID) *per year in care*, counted across all episodes if children have been in care multiple times (i.e., if a child resides in the same home on multiple occasions, only one home is counted), after first applying the same event exclusion rules: respite, on-the-run, juvenile rehabilitation, detention, in-home dependencies, hospital, and events contiguous in time after these events are removed where the placement business ID has not changed. In addition, ANY type of event of less than 31 days duration that occurs between two events with the same business ID are excluded (only the first of such multiple "events" is counted). These exclusions are intended to approximate, as closely as possible, a count of only the child's principal places of residence. The trends were first calculated in December, 2001 and include our new method of correcting for in-home dependencies.

# Permanency: Alternative Stability Measures

## Placement Stabilization

Percent of children currently in care for at least two years with no moves during their most recent full year of care, or a reduction in moves of two or more compared to their previous full year in care

**Trend Analysis:** Regions 1 and 3 continue to make improvements that began in April 2001 with reference to this measure. The state and all other regions demonstrate decreases, many of which follow periods of improvement.



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** The Federal stability measure only considers the number of placement events during the (up to) first 12 months in care. In order to provide a more complete picture of stability, we also report this measure of placement *stabilization*: for children currently in care for more than two years (DCFS custody only): the proportion of children with either no moves during their most recent full year in care, or a reduction of moves of two or more compared to their previous full year in care. This measure thus counts as a success a child previously in an unstable placement who later becomes stabilized. The same events are excluded from these counts: respite, on-the-run, juvenile rehabilitation, detention, in-home dependencies, hospital, and events contiguous in time (after these events are removed) where the placement business ID has not changed. In addition, ANY type of event of less than 31 days duration that occurs between two events with the same business ID are excluded (only the first of such multiple "events" is counted). These exclusions are intended to approximate, as closely as possible, a count of only the child's principal places of residence. The trends were first calculated in December, 2001 and include our new method of correcting for in-home dependencies.

# Permanency: Time in Care

## Number in Care More Than Two Years and Median Time in Care

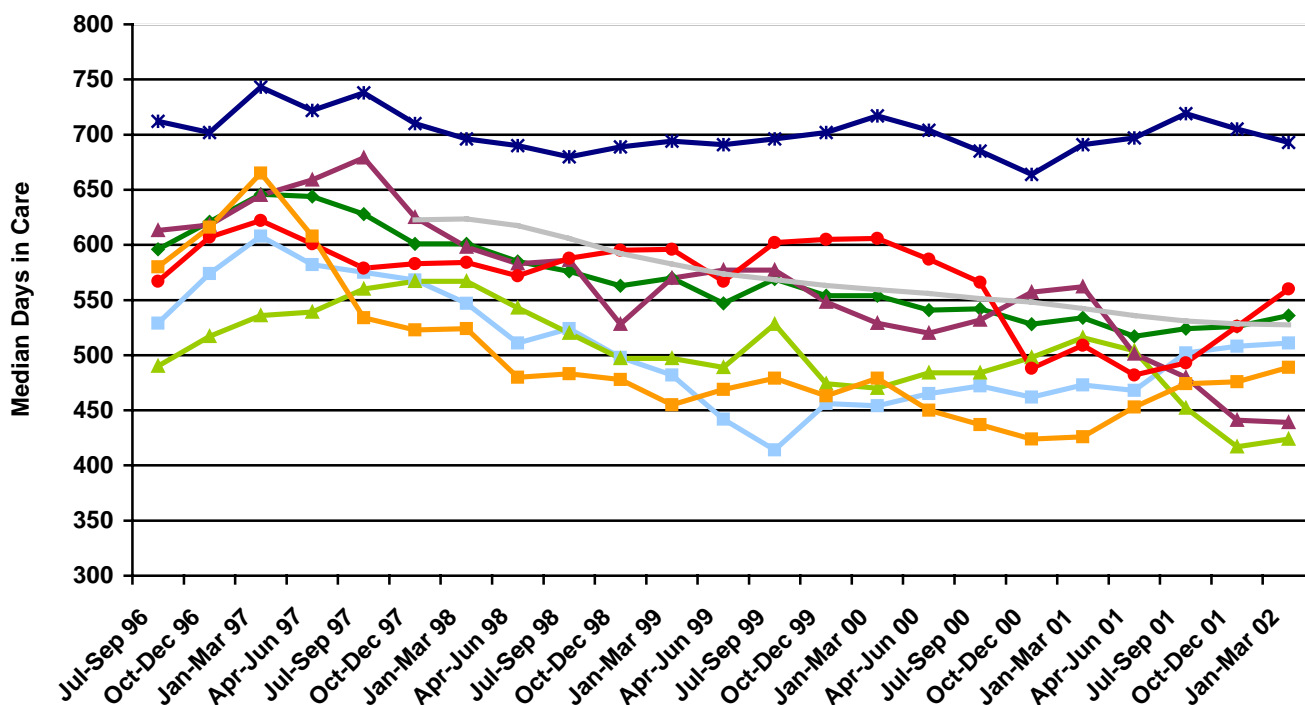
For reference, numbers of children in care for more than two years and trends in the median time in care for children in care > 60 days (open placements) are shown below.

**Trend Analysis:** The trends in the number of children in care for more than two years and the median time in care mirrors the trend in the percentage of all children in care for more than two years: there was a decrease from 1997 to late 2000, with a more recent, unfavorable increase.

Number of children in care for more than two years, as of end of reporting period

Region	FY 2001				FY 2002			
	Jul-Sep 2000	Oct-Dec 2000	Jan-Mar 2001	Apr-Jun 2001	Jul-Sep 2001	Oct-Dec 2001	Jan-Mar 2002	Apr-Jun 2002
1	310	315	357	368	362	367	374	
2	260	255	275	279	268	267	270	
3	387	373	377	415	406	365	366	
4	982	921	946	957	937	906	892	
5	559	547	573	574	562	560	564	
6	407	407	421	442	456	438	453	
State	2905	2818	2949	3035	2991	2903	2919	

State and Regional Trends



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** Children in DCFS custody only, in care (open placement episodes) for more than 60 days as of the end of the reporting period.